

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 ITC-01 AGR-05 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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FOR ARA/AND, AID/CFS AND ARA/CU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, TGEN, VE

SUBJECT: U.S.-VENEZUELAN COORDINATIVE MECHANISM ON TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING FOR SOME TIME  
TO DESTABLISH A BILATERAL WORKING GROUP WITH THE GOV TO DEAL  
WITH VARIOUS KINDS OF TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CORDIPLAN AND NOW HAVE  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH A COORDINATIVE MECHANISM WITH  
THAT MINISTRY TO CONSIDER TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS.  
WE BELIEVE THIS GROUP MIGHT EVENTUALLY DEVELOP INTO A  
MORE COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIZATION IN WHICH THE STATE OF  
THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN THIS GENERAL AREA MAY BE  
ADDRESSED. THE SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGES IN PROMOTING COUNTRY  
FINANCED SERVICES AND THE LONG-TERM ADVANTAGE OF A STRUCTURE  
WITHIN WHICH WE CAN DISCUSS BILATERAL MATTERS ARE OBVIOUS.  
THE PITFALLS ARE ALSO EVIDENT IN THAT CORDIPLAN SEES THIS AS  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK A GREATER U.S. COMMITMENT TO  
VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BECAUSE OF THE NET  
ADVANTAGES, HOWEVER, WE ASK THAT THE DEPARTMENT TAKE  
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PARTICULAR PAINS WITH THE MINISTRY'S FIRST PROJECT OF SEEKING

INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY BY SENDING TECHNICIANS TO THE U.S.  
FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SESSIONS AT INDUSTRIAL  
INSTALLATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. A MISSION OBJECTIVE OF LONG STANDING HAS BEEN TO  
DEVELOP A BILATERAL WORK GROUP WITH THE GOV. ALTER-  
NATIVELY, WE HAVE SOUGHT A COOPERATIVE MECHANISM TO  
PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE EMBASSY AND THE GOV ON TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT EVENTUALLY DEVELOP  
INTO A MORE COMPREHENSIVE GROUP IN WHICH THE STATE OF  
THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN GENERAL ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENT  
AND TECHNOLOGY FIELDS MIGHT BE ADDRESSED. THE  
MINISTRY FOR COORDINATION AND PLANNING (CORDIPLAN) HAS  
BEEN A PRIME TARGET IN THIS REGARD BECAUSE OF ITS  
POTENTIAL FOR ACCESS TO OTHER AGENCIES OF THE GOV AS  
A RESULT OF ITS PRESCRIBED COORDINATING ROLE IN THE  
VENEZUELAN BUREAUCRACY.

3. DURING HIS FIRST CALL ON THE MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR COORDINATION AND PLANNING GUMERSINDO  
RODRIGUEZ, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE QUESTION OF A COORDINATIVE  
GROUP AND STRUCK AN IMMEDIATELY RESPONSIVE CHORD SINCE  
THE MINISTER, AS WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FROM PAST CONTACTS,  
HAS BEEN THINKING OF JUST SUCH A MECHANISM FOR SOME  
TIME. A SUBSEQUENT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WAS HELD  
BETWEEN THE DCM, THE NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY,  
NAPOLEON BRICENO, AND THE STAFF OF THE DIVISION OF  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE FIRST  
SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON OCTOBER 20, DURING  
WHICH, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, THE COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICES'  
PROGRAM, THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO PROGRAM AND THE  
PROGRAM DESCRIBED BELOW WILL BE DISCUSSED.

4. MINISTER RODRIGUEZ HAS AN IDEA FOR A PROGRAM TO  
IMPROVE VENEZUELAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY. HE PROPOSES  
TO SEND BETWEEN 180-240 TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALIZED WORKERS  
TO THE U.S. FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SESSIONS AT INDUSTRIAL  
INSTALLATIONS FOR PERIODS OF 3-6 MONTHS. THE FIELDS OF  
SPECIALIZATION WOULD BE METALLURGY, METAL WORKING,  
PETROCHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, TEXTILES AND PLASTICS. WE  
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GATHER THAT THE CONCEPT IS STILL IN EMBRYONIC STAGE AND  
WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HEAR MORE AT THE OCTOBER 20 MEETING.  
IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS, WE  
INFORMED CORDIPLAN THAT THIS STUCK US AS A VERY AMBI-  
TIOUS PROJECT. WE DISCARDED IMMEDIATELY ANY POSSIBILITY  
OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE FINANCING. WE ALSO SAID  
THAT WE ARE NOT CERTAIN AID/CFS STRUCTURE COULD HANDLE  
THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH A PROGRAM AND WE MIGHT HAVE

TO EXAMINE OUTSIDE INSTITUTIONS, INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS, ETC. DESPITE THE FACT THAT NO U.S. FINANCING WAS AVAILABLE, CORDIPLAN SAID THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE TO SEEK THE RIGHT INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO ADMINISTER AND MONITOR THE PROGRAM WOULD BE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION ON OUR PART TOWARDS ASSISTING IN VENEZUELA'S FIRST PRIORITY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE STEAM BEHIND THIS PROJECT AND CONSIDER THAT WE SHOULD BE AS FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S AND AID'S ADVICE AS TO WHAT THE U.S. COULD USEFULLY DO TO ASSIST THE GOV IN THIS PROJECT. A PRELIMINARY REPORT BEFORE THE OCTOBER 20 MEETING WOULD BE VERY USEFUL.

5. WHILE WE ARE PLEASED BY THE STEPS TAKEN TO ESTABLISH A COORDINATIVE GROUP, WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE PITFALLS. BEYOND THE COORDINATIVE ASPECT, MINISTER GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ OBVIOUSLY SEES THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK GREATER U.S. RESOURCES FOR VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ALSO, THE VENEZUELAN HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE HABIT OF THINKING BIG. WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE THAT THE SHORT-TERM BENEFITS WITH REGARD TO PROMOTING THE COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICES' PROGRAM AND THE LONGER-TERM VALUE OF HAVING A FORUM IN WHICH THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP MAY BE ADDRESSED ARE DETERMINING FACTORS. WE CONSIDER THE STEPS TAKEN SO FAR USEFUL BUT ARE AWARE THAT, PARTICULARLY IN THE EARLY STAGES, THE VALUE OF THE NECHANISM FOR THE GOV MUST BE PROVED. THEREFORE, WE ASK THAT PARTICULAR PAINS BE TAKEN TO COME TO TERMS WITH THIS FIRST PROJECT PROPOSED BY MINISTER RODRIGUEZ.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S AND AID'S ADVICE AS TO WHAT THE U.S. COULD USEFULLY DO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ASSIST THE GOV IN THIS PROJECT. A PRELIMINARY REPORT BEFORE THE OCTOBER 20 MEETING WOULD BE VERY USEFUL.  
VAKY

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